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URGENT NEEDS OF THE NAVY.

A writer on naval subjects holds that the frequent suicides reported among naval officers is due to the overworked condition of the craft. This will be news indeed to those who have been in the habit of regarding naval officers as gentlemen of indolent ease who couldn't find enough to do to relieve them of ennui. Still, the opinion of this writer is given a leg to stand upon by the careful review of ships and officers made for the North American Review by Lieutenant Commander Roy C. Smith, who shows a very unfortunate condition of affairs in our naval establishment.

The number of men and officers in the navy is limited by law. In the last few years the tonnage of the navy has been more than trebled, yet the number of seagoing officers has not been increased at all, and that of the men only to a small extent. The act of 1899 made some increases in the number of seagoing officers, but the vacancies thus created have never been filled, owing to a lack of graduates from the naval academy. "It is," says Commander Smith, "as if a line of merchant ships had ten vessels in its service, all suitably manned, and then gradually increased its fleet to thirty vessels; but as each new ship is added its officers and men were drawn from the older ships, without any increase of the total number. How long could this sort of thing go on?"

At the last session of congress it was provided that the number of enlisted men and boys be increased by 3,000, thus bringing the total up to 28,000. This did not relieve the situation, however. The actual tonnage of our fighting fleet on January 1, 1902, was 481,967 tons. This would give a ratio of sixty men for each 1,000 tons of shipping. But taking into account the authorized tonnage, this same ratio would require a force of 45,000 men and boys, instead of the 28,000 now authorized by law.

However, the problem of men is not so serious as the problem of officers. At present there are no more seagoing officers than there were in the days of the old wooden ships. It is estimated by Commander Smith that a period of twelve years is required to make an efficient lieutenant, beginning at boyhood. And the commander thus describes the predicament in which the navy now finds itself.

"In the report of the bureau of navigation, it is shown that 1,026 additional line officers will be needed by the time all the ships now authorized shall be finished, and the estimate is stated to be at least 30 per cent. smaller than the practice abroad for ships in commission. As the navy now consists of 1,042 line officers, counting the cadets doing sea duty, it means that the number of officers will have to be doubled in about three years from the date of that report, or two years from now. The 1,042 officers then on the list had been in training anywhere from four to forty-eight years. In the next two years an equal number must be added to the list to bring up the total strength to a minimum of efficiency. The problem is an impossible one."

A war within the next decade would mean that we must draw on the merchant marine or on the enlisted men of the navy for officers. It goes without saying that navigation is a small part of a naval officer's duties, and that the merchant marine would not offer much of a field from which to recruit our fighters. More promising would be the ranks of the enlisted men, though if there is anything in academic training training at all—if education and scientific knowledge of the arts of naval war are essential—it would be a poor makeshift at best, and one which must greatly reduce the fighting efficiency of our already too small navy.

The only suggestion for relief from this undesirable situation which seems feasible is the one made by Commander Smith for an immediate increase in the number of naval academy appointments. If congress would increase these appointments by nearly a thousand, we would have coming on a crop of young officers sufficient to supplement the experienced officers now composing the line and staff, and in a few years the navy could be brought up to the highest standard of efficiency.

A WORLD-OWNED WORLD.

A question often put in Mexico, declares the Mexican Herald, is: "Who will own Mexico fifty years hence?" And the answer generally is, "the Yankees."

But an investigation of the Mexican situation convinces the Herald that the Yankees have no monopoly of Mexican investments, any more than they have a monopoly of their own riches. It finds that European capital is being placed in Mexico; that she belongs in reality to "a circle of progressive nations; that she has left the circle backwaters of provincialism and swung into the great current of cosmopolitan business."

And this query so often propounded in Mexico reminds us that not many years have elapsed since the Americans were asking themselves who owned America—when it was the cry of the men who let the politicians do their thinking that we were mastered completely by the British pounds and shill-

ings. It was the custom then of certain alarmists to compile great columns of figures to prove that Great Britain absolutely dominated our financial affairs. But what these alarmists did not see was that Great Britain was helping us to own our country—to develop our industries until, grown rich in turn, we, too, could invest in Mexico and other foreign countries.

The history of development has been that older countries always find the new ones. Another statement of the fact would be that capital always flows to the places where it can be invested with surest chance of greatest profit. If we contemplate the farmer who borrows money and develops a farm and makes his fertile acres pay back with interest the money which he borrowed, we find an exact analogy to what the borrowing newer nations are doing with the older leading nations all the time. But we must disassociate an ambition for power from every transaction of this character. When British money was invested in American securities it was on a cold business basis and not with any intent of dominating us politically. We may say with assurance that capital never yet tried to disturb a government that was conducted successfully, and protected such rights of capital as the world has affirmed. So it was nonsense to talk of Great Britain dominating this republic through the power of investments made by Englishmen.

And this thought brings us to a fact which has been made very apparent during the past few years. Business and capital and investment recognize the political divisions of the earth only to the extent of keeping out of countries where stable conditions cannot be preserved. There is no longer a geographical limit set to movements of the surplus money of any race or nation. Barriers have been knocked down until to the capitalist the whole earth is an open field of operation. British capital goes everywhere, and is largely invested in the securities of even such countries as are far from friendly in their political relations. French capital is invested in Germany, and German capital in France, and both have common interests in a dozen foreign countries. In China, for example, we find British, German, French, Italian, Russian and American capital seeking fields of enterprise. Lately capitalists of the United States financed the Russian and Swedish governments to the extent of large investments in national bonds. Our capitalists have money in European railroads, steamship lines and factories. The capitalists of all countries go everywhere, competing on equal terms for investments which promise security and fair returns. Today a banker in New York may turn a deal in South America, and tomorrow another in China. With every year the influence of race, nation and geographical location grows less in determining the flow of money or the modes of commerce. Almost imperceptibly there has grown up a code of finance and commerce which is world-wide in its operation and quite as powerful and binding as the laws of any land. In a certain sense the capitalists have torn down governmental lines and merged the people of the world into a common population. Never before were the interests of all nations so closely interwound. Those who scrutinized closely the recent "morgantization" of the great steamship lines must have noticed that the stockholders of the new enterprise were listed as being from England, America, France, Holland, Germany, Sweden, Russia, Austria, Italy and even Japan. Before that merger some of the lines were owned largely by the capitalists of a single country. Today they are owned by the world, and the flag their ships may fly is little more than a matter of sentiment. And that which has happened to the commerce of the sea is only an example of what is happening in all the departments of material life as the world moves steadily forward to its cosmopolitan destination.

No one can doubt that there is a moral and political side to the universality of capitalistic operations even if they are not associated on the surface very closely. Formerly the fighting man with spear and armor was the arbiter of conditions which made for war or peace. Now to a large degree the capitalist—and by capitalist we mean the man who produces and the man who finances production—is the one who guides the destinies of his country. And it requires but the application of a well known human rule to realize that the so-called "morgantization" of the world is making more rapidly for universal peace than all the work of moralists.

A woman, still a young woman, in Tiffin, Ohio, has read the Bible through twenty-three times in twenty-three years. The practice of reading the whole of the Bible every year used to be common enough. In Scotland and in New England almost every household had at least one such Bible reader. The language of daily life was full of conscious or unconscious quotations from the Book. Old men and placid old women were forever reading the Bible. Children were familiar with it. Every memory was enriched by that Oriental imagery and noble English. But those were narrow days. People have tons of novels now. We might almost say that novels are written even by folks who can't write. So in this age of "culture" the Bible is neglected. The "higher" criticism and the lower kind of writing have thrust it out; and wise youths speak of it pityingly and patronizingly or recommend it for its folklore. Some of them are deep in Ibsen and reverend Maeterlinck, but how many of them

know the Ninetieth Psalm? They can spout Omar Khayyam, but Ecclesiastes is unknown to them. They have read books about Nietzsche, and they don't know Isaiah and Job. Yet without the New Testament there would have been no Tolstoi. They might be interested in tracing the sources of the "masters" of today.

A POLITICAL KILLING PACE.

SENATOR Hanna broke down after beginning his ninth political speech in one day. This is the political pace that kills. No physical strength is equal to nine speeches in a day with justice to audiences and to the strength of the speaker.

A natural gift of oratory, which Senator Hanna has not and does not pretend to have, would carry a political stump over considerable ground with less fatigue than must be endured by the campaigner who is unaccustomed to rapid and facile composition and who can use "words, words, words" untroubled by specific lack of novelty in style or substance.

Senator Hanna tries to say something when he talks and has broken down the sooner for that unusual reason.

The death of Henry George was due to a sustained effort to make the greatest possible number of substantial speeches in twenty-four hours. No human strength is proof against cerebral overpressure, no matter what the purpose or the form.

When the American mode of stump-speaking came into vogue the mode of travel was slow, and the distance long. The speaker was able to take sound sleep between speeches. The success of the late President McKinley, on the other hand, was due to temperamental tranquillity which enabled him to go to sleep promptly after speaking under any conditions of motion or inactivity. When campaigning, President McKinley stepped from the platform of a flying car to a seat and was instantly unconscious of everything.

In Europe political campaigning is done more by the printing press than by flying tours. In France campaigning covers the walls with pictures, the easiest mode of all for the campaigners.

The loss of Senator Hanna would be a serious interruption of the increasing rapidity of the political pace of the United States. A strong partisan, he is also an important personality in national politics.

If he is to be saved for the higher purposes of his party he should be withdrawn from the comparatively unimportant but no less exhausting excitement of an off-year political contest.

THINKS CRIME IS DECREASING.

PROBABLY the average man, if asked for his opinion on the subject, would say that crime is increasing. Matt P. nkerton, head of the Pink detective agency, and one of the most expert and experienced criminal catchers in the country, takes the opposite view. He grants that carefully prepared statistics of crime tend to sustain the popular impression; but, he says, these statistics and the circumstances on which the popular belief are based, are both deceptive.

The principal cause of the common opinion that lawlessness is growing is undoubtedly the wide publicity now given to crimes by the newspapers. Every murder, embezzlement or highway robbery which happens in any part of the country is telegraphed within a few hours, not only as formerly, to the newspapers of the immediate vicinity where the crime was committed, but to those of the entire country. The morning paper presents a complete panorama of the criminal, as well as the business, political and social events of the preceding twenty-four hours—not of any particular section of one country, but of the world. The average reader makes the mistake of failing to consider that the crimes he reads of now are those of the civilized globe, while those he read of a few decades ago were mainly those of his immediate neighborhood.

Mr. Pinkerton points out two ways in which comparative statistics of crime are vitiated. Modern police and detective systems are so much more efficient than those of former times that a much larger proportion of the crimes committed are detected and punished than formerly; and many comparatively venial offenses, of which the law and police formerly did not take cognizance—ordinary drunkenness, simple disturbance of the peace, etc.—are now proscribed as "misdemeanors" and those guilty of them are punished. "These things go to multiply statistics," he says, "and make it appear that crime is increasing, when, in fact, it is decreasing."

Naturally enough, this professional criminal catcher attributes a large part of the improvement that is taking place to the remarkable efficiency of modern criminal-catching machinery. And no doubt he is justified in doing so. The threat of punishment is the most powerful instrument for restraining men of dishonest or violent propensities that society possesses. It was the belief of ancient criminologists that the more cruel or terrible the vengeance visited on the law-breaker, the more salutary would be the effect of the example on other bad men. But the later and more enlightened opin-

ion is, that the effect of the example is not proportioned so much to the rigor of the punishment as to its certainty and justice. Every improvement in police and detective system is, therefore, a promoter of order; and as men who dare not break the law, gradually through the influence of environment grow into more orderly citizens, improvements in police systems must be considered as indirectly conservators of morality. We inveigh a good deal against the inefficiency of our police and detective systems, but, after all, it must be conceded that if our courts were as speedy and as just in meting out punishments to law-breakers as police officials are expert in catching them, there would be much less foundation than now exists in this country for complaints about miscarriages of justice.

Alarming Prevalence of "Coc" Habit With the Black Population.

THE alarming growth of the accursed use of cocaine among the negroes of Mississippi has caused the suggestion to be made that more radical laws should be enacted for the suppression of the evil. The cocaine habit is demoralizing the race in this State, and its growth in recent years has been phenomenal. Thousands of victims may be found among the negroes, and in the delta section the habit is almost general. The drug has a quick and demoralizing effect, and the negro succumbs quicker to its seductions than a white man, and when the habit is fastened upon him he rarely reforms.

It has been suggested that a law should be passed making it a crime for any person to use cocaine except on a physician's certificate. In 1900 the legislature passed an act forbidding the sale of the drug except upon a physician's certificate, but the law is ignored by nine-tenths of the druggists in the State, and they sell cocaine to all comers without fear or punishment. The law is of no avail, because no effort has been made by the authorities to enforce it.

Physicians state that if the habit among the negroes is not suppressed and radical steps to this end taken very quickly it will mean the utter ruin and final extermination of the race in the South. In nearly every town can be met the victims of the drug, and men and women alike use it freely. Merchants who have closely observed the growth of the habit say that it has almost supplanted the use of snuff among the female negroes, and that snuff has been falling off perceptibly for the past three or four years.

The press of the State is taking up the subject and urging the adoption of some radical method to save the negro from self-destruction, and the officers are being advised to look more closely after the law regulating the sale of the drug.

TRUST AND TIPS.

An effort is being made in Chicago to form a restaurant trust. The promoters are trying to induce seven of the chief restaurants of the town to combine. The programme looks tempting, and the savings that would result seem large. The trust would have its own immense grocery house, its meat market, bakeries, storerooms and so on; and each restaurant would get all its supplies at wholesale rates. The seven restaurants spend some \$1,200,000 annually for supplies. It is estimated that as much as \$100,000 a year can be saved on these and that a great deal of waste can be avoided. The projectors foresee more money in the till and cheaper prices on the bill of fare.

If the proposed restaurant trust ever comes to be a fact, its directors will have an opportunity to serve the public which we fear they will neglect. At present, customers have to pay the waiters in the fashionable restaurants and in too many other eating places that are merely imitating a bad habit of their more pretentious brothers. Now why should a man have to tip a waiter for bringing him food and drink? Why shouldn't every establishment pay the wages of its employees? Nine times out of ten the feed waiter has done nothing to earn his fee. If he is not fed at all, he likely to do less than his duty; in which case he should be discharged.

Tipping is a foreign institution and has no proper place in the United States. To the fee it is a nuisance and an imposition. To the feed, it is, properly considered, either a bit of blackmail extorted or a degrading charity. Tipping is growing every day, alien as the custom is to democratic equality. Any trust or trust-buster that can do anything to check it will do a considerable public service.

It is reported that General Miles was robbed of his jewelry in Honolulu. The thieves were considerable enough, however, to leave his silver bath tub and gold sequels.

Papa Zimmerman has given the pe Manchester baby \$250,000. The duke ought to be willing to raise quite a family at that rate.

One divorce to every seven weddings is the ratio in Indiana. The other six probably decided to tough it out.